Development of ground water in Uttar Pradesh

2717. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the development of ground water in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent of assistane proposed to be made available by the Agency, the share of the State Government, if any, and that of the Central Government for the venture; and

(c) the time likely to be taken for the completion of the job?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Exchange for Notes has been signed between the Governments of India and Japan on 5th January, 2006 for development of ground water in the State of Uttar Pradesh for grant assistance of Japanese Yen 603 Million (Rs. 23 crore equivalent). As per the Exchange of Notes, the State Government shall bear all the expenses, other than those covered by the grant, necessary for execution of the project.

(c) The grant assistance is to be availed from 5.1.2006 to 4.1.2007.

Baglihar Hydro-Electric Project

2718. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project and the time frame for completion of the project when it was conceived;

(b) the details of estimated cost and the amount expended on the project till now;

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to hand over the project for completion to a private party;

(d) how much more funds are required to complete the project;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to black list any company that has delayed the completion of project;

(f) whether anyone has been held responsible for the delay and the action taken against them; and

(g) how many Hydroelectric Power Projects have been handed over to private parties?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The estimated cost as techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority in March, 1985 was Rs. 608.89 crore (Net) at September 1984 price level, excluding the cost of transmission system. The cost was updated in March 1990 at February 1989 price level to Rs. 887.23 crore (Net) including cost of associated transmission line. The project was expected to be completed and implemented within six years from the date of commencement of construction work and a period of one and a half year had been earmarked for development of basic infrastructure. The State Government of J&K cleared the project in January 1998 at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 3810 crore. The original estimated cost as adopted by Power Finance Corporation is Rs. 4000 crore and the project was planned to be completed by 31st December, 2004. The latest cost as estimated is of the tune of Rs. 4300 crore. Total expenditure incurred ending July 2006 is Rs. 3348.12 crore.

(c) As informed by the Project Authority, there is no such proposal.

(d) As per latest cost, balance of Rs. 951.88 crore is required for completion of the project.

(e) As per the Project Authority, there is no such proposal.

(f) As informed by the Project Authority, delay has been caused due to various reasons *viz.* land acquisition problem financial difficulties and occurrence of Force Majeure events in July-August, 2005.

(g) As informed by Central Electricity Authority, seven hydro-electric projects of total installed capacity of 2061 MW are presently under execution in private sector.

Prevention of erosion by the Ganga and Padma rivers

2719. SHRI MUKUL ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of West Bengal have approached the Central Government for financial and technical assistance for prevention of erosion by the Ganga and the Padma rivers in the district of Murshidabad;